The Lions' Pride

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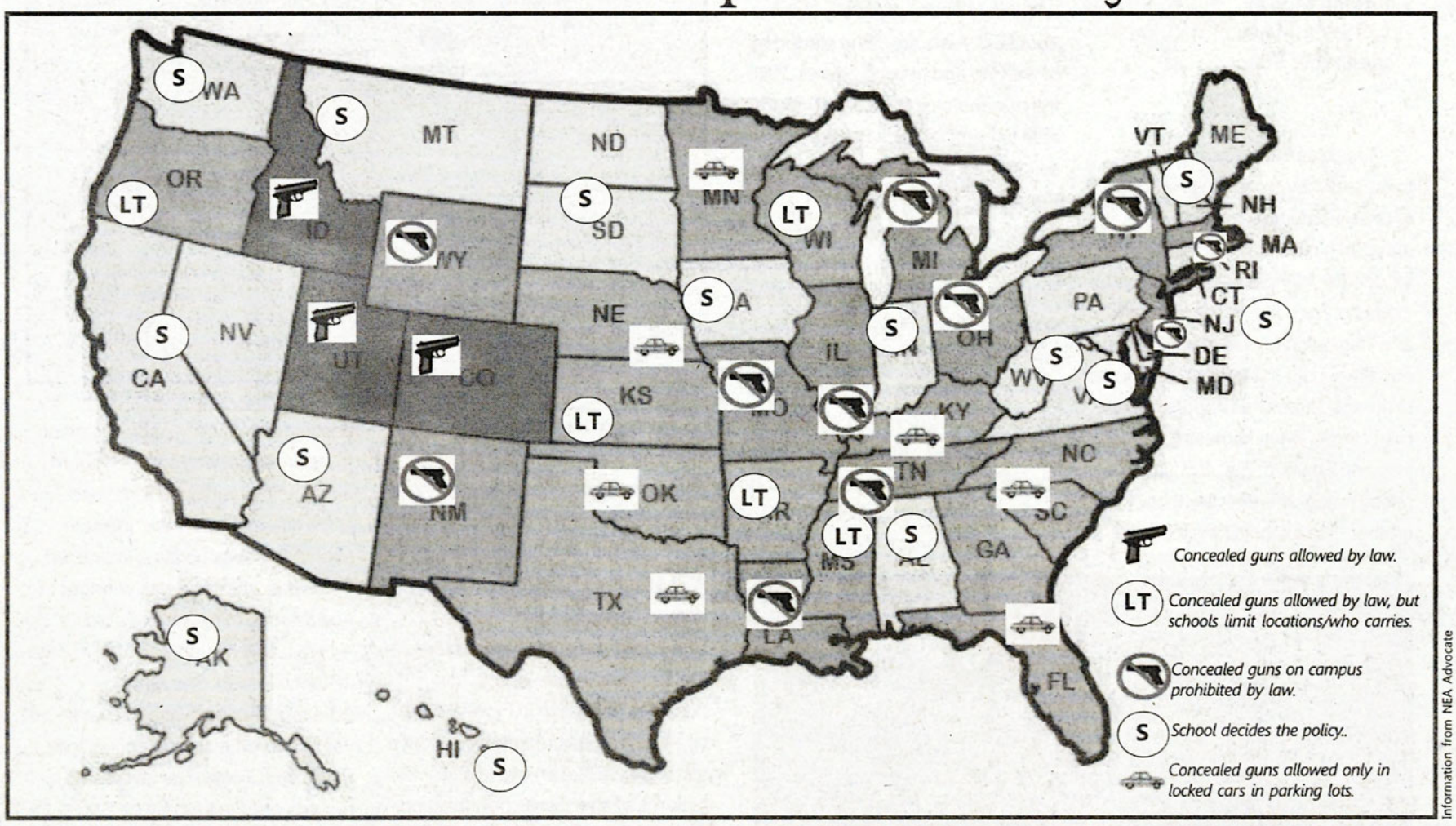
Guns Allowed on Campus are Deadly Serious



Information from NEA Advocate

By Amber Fink
Advertising Manager and Editorial Page Editor

About 2 months ago Florida State University (FSU) had a shooting take place in their well-populated library. Three students were injured.

Concealed weapons have been prohibited on college campuses up until now. A Florida bill is being considered allowing people on a college campus to have concealed weapons for their protection and their rights.

"Gun free zones" prevent nothing according to the Republican State Senator, Greg Steube. Therefore, in his opinion, why have a "gun free zone" that disables others, who do obey this rule, from protecting themselves. For example, in the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre 32 people were killed and 17 were injured.

Most univerisities have not seen such violence.

"One incident involving a gun has occurred in the past 15 years; we have been very lucky. But nothing positive can come out of having guns on campus," said Criminal Justice Chair and Professor, David Persky.

"Just because an area is called 'gun-free,' that doesn't stop the criminals from walking on and creating havoc," Steube told MSNBC. "These 'gun-free zones' certainly don't protect the innocent people that are there just because there is a law prohibiting people from carrying a firearm."

But, not everyone agrees with this reasoning.

"I think that it's a pretty dangerous law. I mean we're not even allowed Nerf guns on campus. With the independence factor on campuses, it's going to be really hard to regulate and monitor," said Junior and Criminal Justice major, Marc Lawton.

Of course there has to be boundaries. Steude has placed a restriction on which of the people on a college campus can access the weapons. Steude excludes younger college students, under the age of 21, and less than 1 percentage of the state's permit holders.

However, this bill could cause concern for univerisities, especially public universities.

"The bill would not apply to us as a private University," said Sergeant of Operations, Vincent "Mike" D'Ambrosio. However, he would not make any other comment on the matter.

For now, eight Republicans support this bill and four Democrats oppose it. Only two other House committees have to approve this bill for it to go on to the next process. If this bill is passed, it will take effect on July 1. If this bill is passed Florida will be the eighth state to allow guns on campuses. Other states that already approved this bill are Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Eventually Steube would like to introduce guns into elementary, middle and high school as well, but that is to come later on.

The southern states often have mass shootings, active-shooters and several lockdown drills. These precautions are now routine for many students. Since the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT last Dec., there have been almost 100 school shootings in America. That is almost 8 mass shootings a month.

Clearly the gun laws are not strict, especially in the southern states. The southern states do not require background checks on the buyer of the weapon and allow the purchase of assault weapons. The lack of restrictions gives Florida one of the worst ratings when it comes to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Back to School Bash

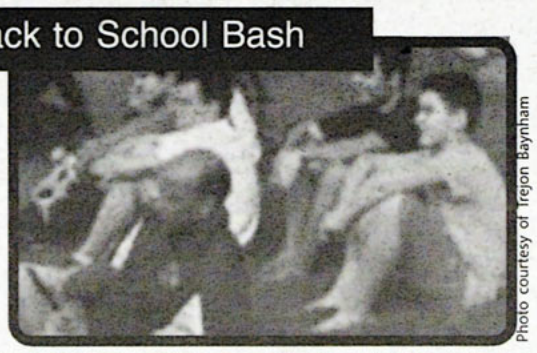


Photo courtesy of Trejon Baynham

FAB Building Opens

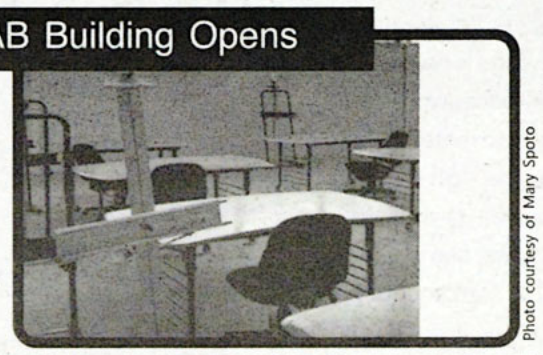


Photo courtesy of Mary Spoto

Top 2014 Movies

Photo courtesy of twitter @saskiaekberg

Local News

Class of 2018 brings talent to Saint Leo University

By Amber Fink and Autumn Murray
Advertising Manager and Layout Editor

Freshman Lane James "thinks for herself." By blogging, she hopes to raise awareness on feminism along with other subjects; she hopes for debate. Without her knowledge on the history of suffrage, her passion and inspiration to raise awareness for equality would not be such an impact to others. James has experienced many times when fairness what not present. For example, she was raised much differently from her brother. The expectations for a girl were not raised nearly as high as she had hoped of achieving. In high school she was on the ballot to be the president of the student council, but did not receive the part since others protested that she could not fulfill the role successful since she is a girl. These few experiences have sparked her passion on feminism. James is passionate about equality and fairness. "Women can do anything men can do", James strongly states. James posts multiple times a week to her blog. Even though the passion has been present for many years, James started her blog on Nov. 2, 2014. James encourages others to do the research before making decisions. Are others making decisions because it is popular or because they have a passion and are knowledgeable on the topic? James would like to challenge others to take a stand; to stand for equality. Do the research before making a commitment or making a decision. James's favorite blog as of Nov. 13, 2014 is women verses women. Go check her blog out at randommusingsofacrazy woman.wordpress.com

Amber Fink, freshmen, started her unique hobby of jewelry making about 2-3 years ago. She started off by sewing and making pillows. With the new technological age, Fink is able to bring us back to the sentimental quality of handmade art. Her work is one of a kind and incorporates color, texture and quality materials to make her jewelry and pillows. "I wanted to expand the business so then I started jewelry making. After seeing other people's work at craft shows, I thought it was really cool." Says Fink. Fink also believes strongly in giving back to the community, especially to animals in need. Fink has made about 10-20 handmade pillows and donated them to the humane society. "Giving to the humane society is one of my passions since a little over a year ago, I adopted a dog from there. " She owns an online business called Stitch Boutique where she sells her jewelry on her own website (http://www.stitchboutique.wix.com/stitchboutique.). You can also find her work on Etsy and order from there as well (http://www.etsy.com/shop/amstitchniche?ref=search_shop_redirect). Locally, Fink often host craft shows to showcase her work. If you are interested getting ahold of Fink or anything concerning her business you can like her Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stitch-Boutique/502169133177030) or email her at stitchboutique@hotmail.com.

Photo Courtesy of Amber Fink

This is a braided Kumihimo bracelet. **For some, this rainbow bracelet could symbolize their belief in equality.**

Freshman and photographer, Danielle LaDue, has created her own business! LaDue is passionate about photography because she feels that it is a great way to remember the past, the good and bad. She referred to her grandmother who had passed away. Without pictures, she would only remember her grandmother how she looked when she was sick and did not have hair on her head. But, because she has the gift of photos, she can remember when she was healthy and alive. She hopes to have photography as a side job currently and in the future. She was very successful and had many clients back in her hometown, Maryland. She hopes to become well known in the Saint Leo area allowing her business to flourish in Florida. She became a paid photographer about a year ago. LaDue enjoys taking pictures of specifically portraits and couples. LaDue charges $25 for Saint Leo University students and $35 for anyone off campus. She will spend an unlimited amount of time and pictures with each individual or group she works with. She hopes to be known at the "go-to photographer". Check her Facebook page out at www.facebook.com/danielleladuephotography.

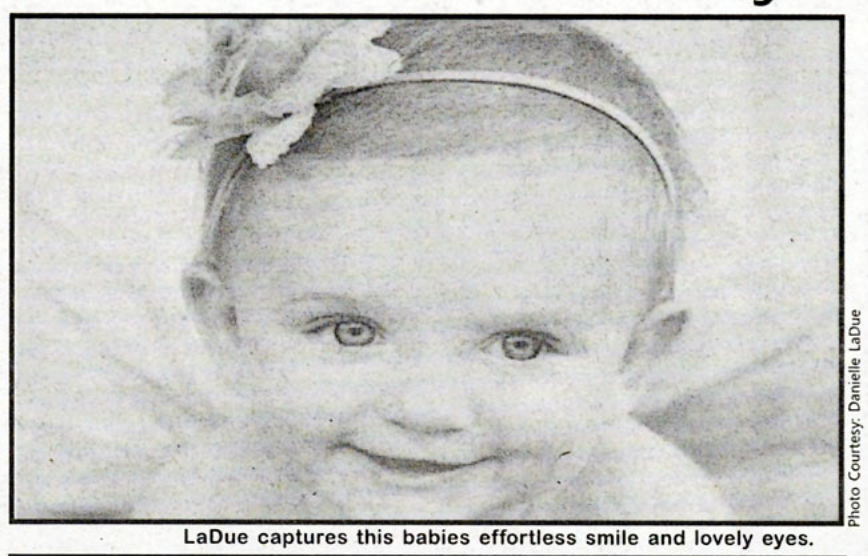


Photo Courtesy: Danielle LaDue

LaDue captures this babies effortless smile and lovely eyes.

Freshman Sierra Tibbetts, has brought her talent to campus! Tibbetts has started the Vinyl club on campus, which is a first to have a club like this at Saint Leo University.. This club gathers people of the same passion of collecting and/or listening to records. Tibbetts collects records and enjoys listening to them because of the different and more "intimate sound". Tibbetts became interested in records when she was younger and listened to her parent's old records. She has about 150+ records in her collection. She started collecting records two and a half years ago. She likes to collect folk music specifically. Her favorite records are First Aid Kit by Stay Gold. Her most valuable record is worth $50 and is Wings Over America by Paul McCartney. Tibbetts is majoring in international tourism and hopes to go into concert tour management. At the beginning of her collection, two and a half years ago, Tibbetts had an interview with New Hampshire Chronicle television station to talk about her record collection.

NEWSROOM

33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Letters To The Editor

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- Faculty: Include name and rank
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- Send submissions to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**

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A Guide to Off Campus Housing

By Tom Buckley
Social Media Liaison

On campus housing is undoubtedly more expensive than leasing an apartment off campus at any University. That is why many students choose to live nearby Saint Leo University and commute. The average housing rate of all upperclassmen residence halls comes in at $3445 per semester. Multiply that number by two and you will get $6890 per academic year. Living in a residence hall on campus for one academic year will set you back $2894 more than living at nearby Sweetwater Apartments for an entire calendar year based on a one year lease of a 3 bedroom apartment split between 3 roommates. Sweetwater Apartments is a top choice for off-campus housing among Saint Leo students. These costs of living on campus do not include the required purchase of a meal plan and at Sweetwater the cost of utilities, furniture costs, and the cost of gas to commute to Saint Leo. Others may choose to live off-campus because of the demands of a job or internship which take away time to be on campus and stay involved with clubs and organizations.

By calculating the cost difference, one can begin to see the value and savings of living off campus. The best resources for finding off campus housing can be found online. Most likely, when you Google apartments, your search results will return websites such as apartmentfinder.com, forrent.com, apartmentguide.com, and rent.com that will allow you to search for apartment complexes and houses for rent in your area. Although these sites are useful for finding apartments or houses to rent, they are poorly organized, and littered with ads & sponsored apartment complexes. Other sites such as padmapper.com, hotpads.com, and livelovely.com are much more useful for conducting searches for your own home away from home off campus. These alternatives are easier to use because they allow you to simply select the city in which you want to rent and then display results on a large interactive map. The large map clearly allows you to see the distance and proximity of the apartments to Saint Leo.

A simple search on one of these websites will return you with a large assortment of apartment listings, all within a 20-mile radius of Saint Leo University.

Among the best are The Arbours at Fort King, The Columns at Cypress Point, Providence at Zephyr Ridge and Seneca at Cypress Creek. The Sweetwater Apartments are not recommended by its residents who have previously left negative reviews on the website ApartmentRatings.com.

Located closely behind the Pasco County Fairgrounds and Pasco High School, the Arbours at Fort King is the closest of the best apartments to Saint Leo. The Arbours at Fort King offer amenities such as appliances, cable/ satellite, a clubhouse, a car care center, and community activities. Monthly rental prices range from $530 for a 1 Bedroom 1 Bath unit to $738 for a 3 Bedroom 2 Bath unit.

Located behind The Home Depot in Zephyrhills the second closest recommended apartment complex to Saint Leo is the Columns at Cypress Point. The convenient location of the complex allows for easy access to Saint Leo by travel of Handcart Road and Prospect Road. The Columns at Cypress Point offers amenities such as a fitness center, tennis courts, laundry facilities, a resort-style pool, 24 hour maintenance, a business center and 9 foot ceilings in select units with crown molding in all units. Monthly rental prices range from $ 845 for a 1 Bedroom 1 Bath unit to $1390 for a 3 Bedroom 2 Bath unit. The complex is also 86% recommended by its residents who have left reviews on apartmentratings.com.

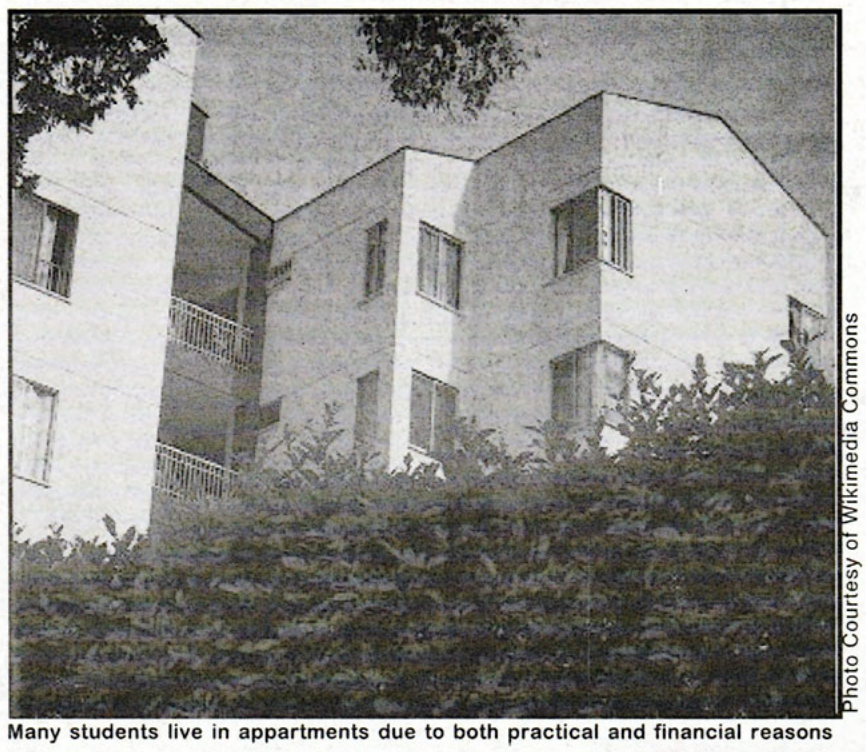


Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Many students live in appartments due to both practical and financial reasons

The Providence at Zephyr Ridge is the third closest of the recommended apartment complexes to Saint Leo. The Providence at Zephyr Ridge is located off State Road 54 in a residential area closer to downtown Zephyrhills than the Columns at Cypress Point. The complex offers amenities such as a Cafe with Wi-Fi, Fitness Center, large windows, doors with peepholes, alarms, available units with attached and detached garages and is 83% recommended by its residents who have rated it on apartmentratings.com. Monthly rental prices range from $809 for a 1 Bedroom 1 Bath unit to $1120 for a 3 Bedroom 2 Bath unit.

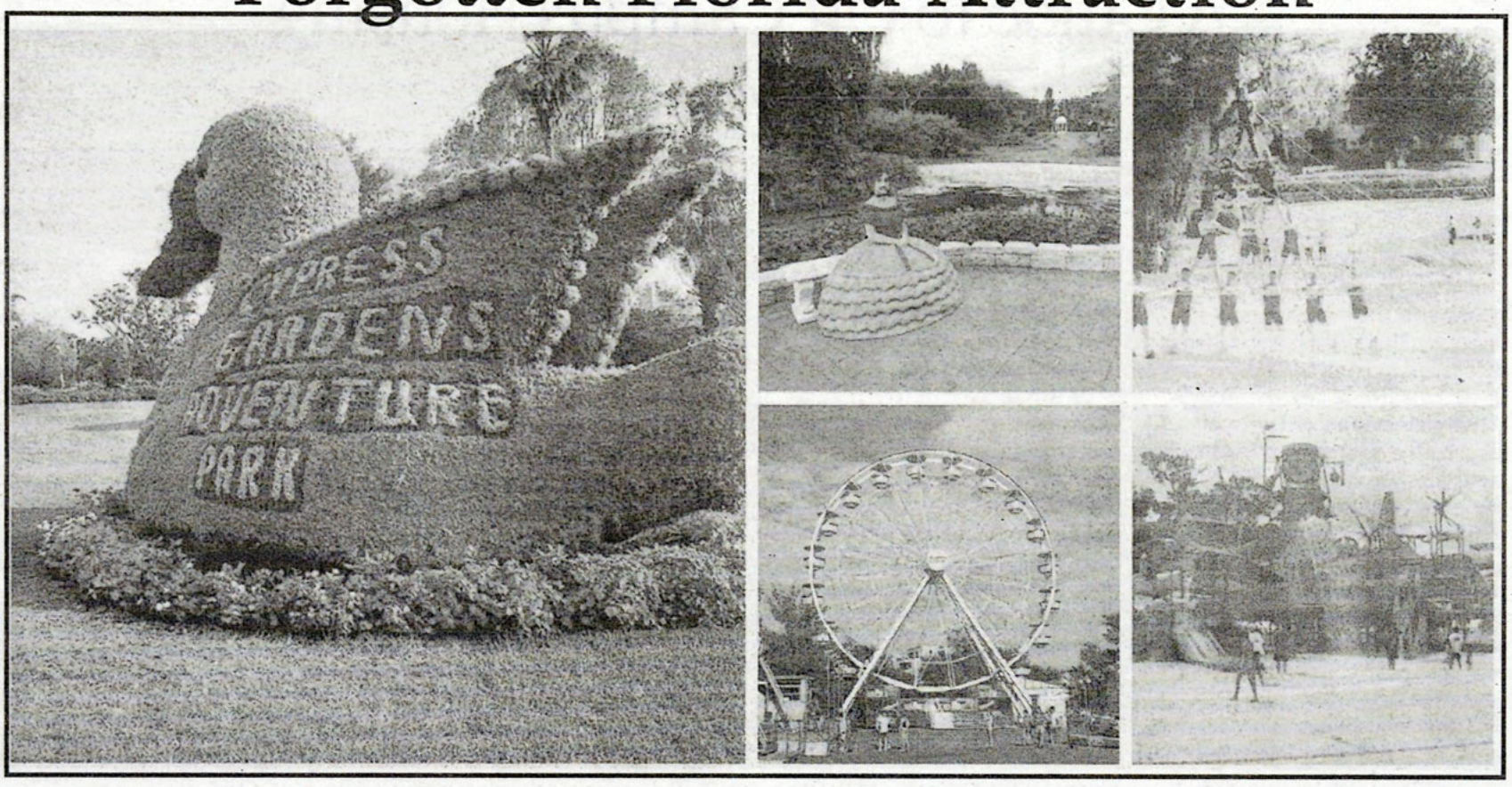
The Seneca at Cypress Creek is located further south in Wesley Chapel and is a bit more expensive than the other recommended complexes in the Dade City/Zephyrhills area. Being located right off of the Interstate on State Road 56, the Seneca at Cypress Creek allows for easy access to Saint Leo. The complex offers amenities such as a Cafe with free WiFi, Home Theatre, Billiards Table in the Clubhouse, Spin room with a Wii Fit, a fire pit, dog park, walking trail, and large open floor plans with a screened-in lanais and a bonus room in select units. Monthly rental prices range from $875 for a 1 Bedroom 1 Bath unit to $1870 for a 3 Bedroom 2.5 Bath unit with a two-car garage. The residents of this apartment complex gave the complex a rating of 76%. While still high, the rating is not as high as the other complexes in the Dade City/ Zephyrhills Area

Other impressive apartment complexes in Wesley Chapel area include Colonial Grand at Seven Oaks, Delano Apartments at Cypress Creek, the Colonial Grand at Hampton Preserve and Altis at Grand Cypress in Lutz.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

Some students enjoy living at nearby apartments because they do not have to spend all of their time at the university, they can go do other things as well.

Forgotten Florida Attraction



Images in this collage courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

By Emily Buckley
Contributing Writer

Every year people flock to Florida for its many attractions, but what about Florida's attractions of the past? History plays a major role in opening and closing of Florida's past tourist attractions. There are countless numbers of noteworthy places in Florida to visit that have slipped from scene and only live on in visitor's memories. Disney World was not the first tourist attraction to draw visitors to the sunshine state, and it won't be the last it may even follow in path of its predecessors.

#5 Miracle Strip Amusement Park

Miracle Strip was appropriately named, for its small size it was a miracle that it was able to hold its own against the mega-amusement parks in Florida. Located on Panama City Beach this small park looked like a traditional ocean-side boardwalks of the past. The park opened in 1963 by Jimmy Lark, he kept his park well maintained and up to date, expanding and improving. In 1990 the park was renovated with bench swings and attractive landscaping. Many rides were also added: a ferris wheel, wave swinger, merry-go-round, music express, paratrooper, Looper, teacup ride, train ride, spider, Sea Dragon, Shockwave, bumper cars, mini-enterprise, the O2 drop ride, and small scale versions for the younger visitors. The most notorious ride was the Starliner rollercoaster, it was there at the beginning of the park's opening and it was expanded till the end. After 9/11 the tourist industry took a fall and caused the park to lose money, Miracle Strip's last day of operation was Labor Day, 2004. The 'miracle' Miracle Strip lasted a total of 41 years.

#4

Storyland

Storyland was Florida's newest and most exciting attraction in November of 1955. This new 'mini Disney' was full of fun toddler geared rides and entertainment. The park was designed to let children experience their favorite fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Storyland consisted of a series of mini villages, fairy tale village, monkey village, and even a Seminole Indian village. The park featured miniature rides such as a train, merry-go-round, ferris wheel, pony carts and an airplane ride. The park opened at the beginning of the first baby boom after World War 2, so as a result the park was a huge success. Unfortunately, toddlers do not stay toddlers, and the park designers did not take into account that this new boom of toddlers would eventually grow out of their small rides. As a result the park shut down in 1961 and reopened under a new owner in 1964. Florida was hit by hurricane Cleo and caused critical damage that closed the park. The park's remains were demolished in 1964.

Dupree Gardens

In the 1930's, Tampa Lawyer, J. William Dupree's life was changed when these two things happened to him: he bought a 900 acre estate, and he was injured in a car accident. His new property was on a lake in Pasco County near Land O' Lakes. Recovering from his injuries, Mr. Dupree decided to take up gardening; his property was soon covered with exotic plants, beautiful flowers and tropical trees. His friends were so impressed with his artwork they convinced him to open up his property as an attraction for the public to see. Dupree Gardens opened December 1, 1940 complete with a restaurant, boat rides on the lake, and he even had a sound system installed to play classical music around his beautiful displays. His property was now packed full of plants and people. Unfortunately, World War 2 caused a drop in the tourism industry due to gas rationing and wartime priorities. First the restaurant shut down, but the park was not able to continue and was closed in the 1950's.

#2

Disney's River Country

Walt Disney World opened their first water park on June 20, 1976. This park was built right on Bay Lake, (if you've ever been to the Magic Kingdom Bay Lake is the body of water that the ferry boats cross to carry park visitors from the entrance to the main parking lot) it was designed to be an old fashioned swimming hole with natural lake water and sandy bottom. River Country's water was filtered through a unique system, however the water was not being completely purified. Tragedy struck when an 11 year old boy was killed by a rare disease from an amoeba. Disney started opening other larger and safer water parks Typhoon Lagoon opened in 1989 and Blizzard Beach opened in 1995, but River Country still endured despite the competition. Every year, like most water parks, River Country would close at the end of the warm weather season. The last time it closed for the season park officials had every intention of reopening in the spring. Due to the attacks on 9/11 tourism dropped and Disney suffered a blow that put a hold on the reopening. On April 11, 2002 it was declared that the park would never again reopen. A change in Florida Law was made that prohibited unchlorinated water bodies from being used in water parks. Its' last day of operation was September 30, 2001. This attraction was never demolished it still stands today, the abandoned and overgrown skeleton of the park can be seen from a boat ride to and from Walt Disney World's Fort Wilderness Resort and the Magic Kingdom.

http://creepypasta.wikia.com/wiki/File:Rivercountry030.jpeg

What is left of River Country sits abandoned and reclaimed by nature. The skeleton of the park can be seen on a boat ride from Fort Wilderness Disney Resort to The Magic Kingdom.

#1

Cypress Gardens

Cypress Gardens has the most complicated and rough history of all of Florida's attractions put together. The original founder, Dick Pope, got the idea from a Charleston man who was charging admission to visitor who wanted to view his estate's gardens. He bought some swampland in Central Florida on Lake Eloise, and with the assistance of the WPA he was able to fill the site of the soon-to-be Cypress Gardens. With the help of his plant expert wife the park opened on January 2, 1936 (before Disney World came to Florida). Dick Pope was an excellent promoter to Florida's tourism industry, he sent pictures north to attract the people shut in by snow. His theory was that he needed to get people to want to come to Florida before his park. The gate entrance was the eye catching incentive to draw people inside, when a freeze in 1940 killed the Flame Vine off the gate people began to leave at the sight of the dead vine on the entrance, but meanwhile inside, the rest of the park's gardens had survived the freeze. To remedy this problem the office girls were recruited to adorn the colorless entrance, by wearing colorful, southern belle dresses. This idea worked and they successfully distracted visitors from the damage. Cypress Gardens was not only famous for the beautiful gardens, they also were famous for their ski shows. While Dick Pope was serving his country in World War 2, a water skier was pictured in the local newspaper with Cypress Gardens in the background. People started showing up at the park and asking when the water ski shows began, but they didn't have a water show. Mrs. Pope convinced her water skiing son and his friends to start up a water ski show, and it was a huge success. In 1960 Walt Disney announced construction of Walt Disney World. Mr. Pope was thrilled, thinking that anything that brought more tourists to Florida was great and would help his business. The construction of Walt Disney World changed travel patterns, people began to go straight to their destination, Disney World, then go straight back home. Many people did not bother to drive south of Orlando to see Cypress Gardens. The park struggled to compete with Walt Disney World's high standards by adding theme park rides, but they were still unsuccessful. In the 1980's Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, a publishing corporation, started buying out lots of theme parks and June 1985 Cypress Gardens made their list of new possessions. After over-spending millions on their new parks, they had to sell them to Busch Entertainment (BE). BE considered closing the park down because they did not know what to do with it. Bill Reynolds, a Cypress Gardens management team member, purchased the park. The park was then designed to target retirees, but 9/11 slowed the economy and hurt the fixed-income retirees. April 13, 2003, was declared to be the final day of operation. In 2004 a deal was made with another theme park company to purchase the non-gardens part of the park. The company spent lots of money into their new project, a waterpark was added, and many new rides. In August 2004 Florida was hit by a series of hurricanes and *damaged the newly constructed park, despite the trouble it still opened under financial trouble in 2006. In 2007 it was purchased at a bankruptcy auction, closed in 2008 to return to the historical gardens as the main focus. It reopened in 2009 surviving only until September of that same year and closed down again. In January 2010 the park was sold to the owner of Legoland parks, and the gardens still thrive to this day. The title of Cypress Gardens may be gone, but its long historic roots run deep.*

These once huge, successful attractions have been forgotten. They no longer make the lengthy list of Florida's tourist attractions, but these past parks give way to a new future in Florida's tourism industry. Florida is always growing with new, exciting places to experience, founded right on its' solid, fun-filled past.

Health

Killing You Sweetly: Artifical Sweeteners

By Shayvonne Renaud
Contributing Writer

In today's society people are very conscience about their health. We often make sacrifices in our diets for various reasons; be it our body's general health, specific health concerns, or just in preparation for our best bikini bodies. So with all of these new studies and "miracle diets" thrown at us daily we take a closer look into our own kitchens and lifestyles. One of the biggest debates in health and fitness right now is between "real sugar," and artificial sweeteners. So is Real sugar better than artificial sweeteners? Does it even really matter?

What are Artificial Sweeteners?

So, what is an artificial sweetener? Artificial sweeteners are manmade sugar substitutes, however they may be derived from natural substances including herbs and sugar itself. While real sugars such as brown sugar, cane sugar, and confectioners' sugar, are derived from the earth, they can also be processed or refined during packaging. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved five artificial sweeteners as additives: Saccharin, Acesulfame, Aspartame, Neotame, Sucralose, and Stevia. These can be found in most brand name substitute sugars such as Sweet'N Low, Equal, and Splenda.

What are the benefits of Artificial Sweeteners?

According to the Mayo Clinic (a non-profit medical research and practice healthcare company), there are many benefits to artificial sweeteners.

- Unlike real sugar, Artificial sweeteners don't contribute to tooth decay and cavities
- Artificial sweeteners aren't harmful to diabetics since artificial sweeteners aren't carbohydrates and can't raise blood sugar levels
- Artificial sweeteners have essentially no calories, unlike real sugar

Critics often claim that artificial sweeteners can cause cancer and high blood sugar, according to the National Cancer Institute, there's no scientific evidence that proves artificial sweeteners (that are approved by the FDA) is responsible for cancer or any other serious health problems. Foods and additives regulated by the FDA must be reviewed and approved before being made available. The FDA has also established an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) for each artificial sweetener, therefore it is relatively safe to consume as long as it is not abused. In a 2012, a scientific statement by The American Heart Association (AHA) and American Diabetes Association (ADA) approved the use of artificial sweeteners rather than sugar to reduce the risk factors for heart disease. "While they are not magic bullets, smart use of non-nutritive sweeteners could help you reduce added sugars in your diet, therefore lowering the number of calories you eat. Reducing calories could help you attain and maintain a healthy body weight, and thereby lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes, "

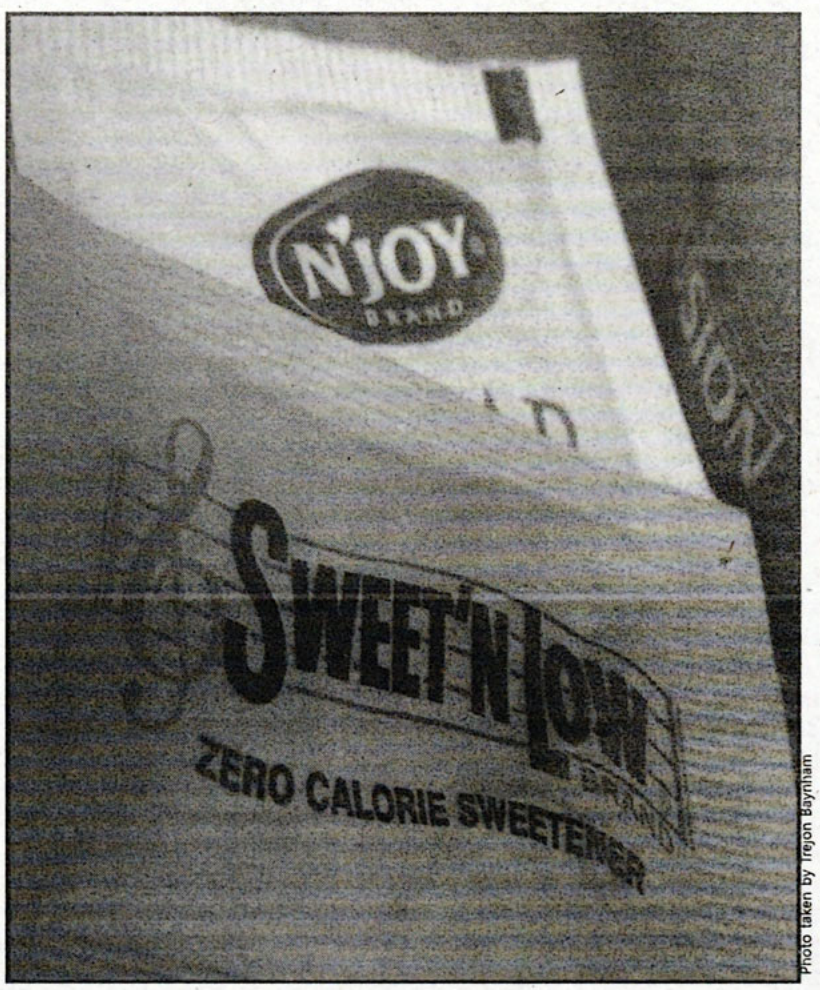


Photo taken by Treyon Baynham

For centuries, people have used sugar as a sweetener. The average person will consume an estimated 100 pounds of sugar a year.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

An estimated $4.5 billion dollars have been spent in investment for equipment to better merchanize harvesting of sugarcane in Brazil over the last seven years.

What are the Risks of Artificial Sweeteners?

Although artificial sweeteners are not a serious risk to your health, there are some facts you should be aware of.

- Artificial sweeteners, also known as "Intense sweeteners," are so sweet that they must be diluted to wane their intense sweetness in order to imitate the sweetness of real sugar. Artificial sweeteners can be 8 to 8,000 times sweeter than sugar!
- Research suggests that the intense sweetness present in artificial sweeteners may inhibit us from connecting sweetness with our calorie intake. As a result, we crave more sweets, and tend to choose sweeter foods rather than nutritious food, therefore resulting in weight gain.
- Although most sweeteners in diet products are labeled as "zero calories," the FDA regulations permit any food product that has five or less calories per serving to be labeled as "0" calories
- Aspartame, which is advertised with brands like NutraSweet, Equal and Sugar Twin, must provide a label advising those with the rare genetic disorder, phenylketonuria, that phenylalanine is contained.

said Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, Christopher Gardener Ph.D. Essentially, artificial sweeteners are of no real risk to your health and overall being as long as you take it easy and consume them in moderation.

Along with these risks, studies propose that artificial sweeteners may be addictive.During a research study at the University of Bordeaux, rats were exposed to cocaine and then given a choice between either cocaine or saccharine; and surprisingly most chose saccharin. "Our findings clearly demonstrate that intense sweetness can surpass cocaine reward, even in drug-sensitized and addicted individuals. We speculate that the addictive potential of intense sweetness results from an inborn hypersensitivity to sweet tastants. In most mammals, including rats and humans, sweet receptors evolved in ancestral environments poor in sugars and are thus not adapted to high concentrations of sweet tastants." Saccharin is a main component in artificial sweeteners, such as Sweet and Low, Sweet Twin, Sweet'N Low, and Necta Sweet.

Are Artificial Sweeteners Better Than Real Sugar?

In the end there is no right or wrong choice, both real sugar and artificial sweeteners have risks and benefits. It's up to the individual to decide which is better for his or her lifestyle and overall health. Someone dealing with high blood sugar may prefer artificial sweeteners, while someone who favors natural foods would prefer sugar or other natural sweeteners, such as honey. The best choice is the informed choice, so be sure to read product labels and ingredient lists.

Arts & Entertainment

Set Your Gameplay into Overdrive

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

With more recent games involving heavy storytelling and dark themes, it's a relief to find a new game that is comedic and vibrant. Insomniac Games, known for their Spyro and Rachet and Clank series, has created a new game for the Xbox One called "Sunset Overdrive."

The story takes place in the colorful metropolis known as Sunset City, which has been taken over and controlled by a corporation known as FizzCo. The player has his/her own avatar, which is an employee of the company who has been given the task of cleaning up after their huge celebratory launch of their new energy drink product, Overcharge Delirium XT. The only downside is that this energy drink turns most of the people of Sunset City into crazy, overdosed mutants. The player now has to find the survivors and team up with them to escape Sunset City.

The gameplay is full of objectives and missions with the whole city being an open world, giving the player space to explore. It focuses on swift combat, letting the player wall run, zip line and use acrobatics to his/her advantage with quick moves. Grinding the rails of the city also gets the player to destinations faster, and helps the player venture around the map more easily. With an eight weapon slot menu the player can have multiple guns such as an assault rifle, grenade launcher and more, all with clever comedic names. Amps play a big role in the game as they make the player's character more powerful in the higher missions in Sunset City. There are multiple amps to pick from, like weapon amps that help with ammo and weapons, hero amps which help with style, and melee amps that help with the melee action of the player's weapon. The last amp is the epic amp which makes anything happen like railing catching on fire, the ground trembling under the player, and lightning destroying the enemies around the player.

The game also has an online co-op mode called ChaosSquad. In this mode, eight players guard and defend vats of the FizzCo energy drink from the mutants. While players can work together, they can also try to earn the prize of style points. These style points help with getting amps that help with the customization of the player's character. Though ChaosSquad does not support free-roam co-op, the option might be available in the expansion pack. The customization option of the game is like any other open world game, it has tons of clothing and upgrades that you can equip to your character and their weapons. The customization makes the player avatar look more unique and rebellious in the mutant covered apocalyptic world.

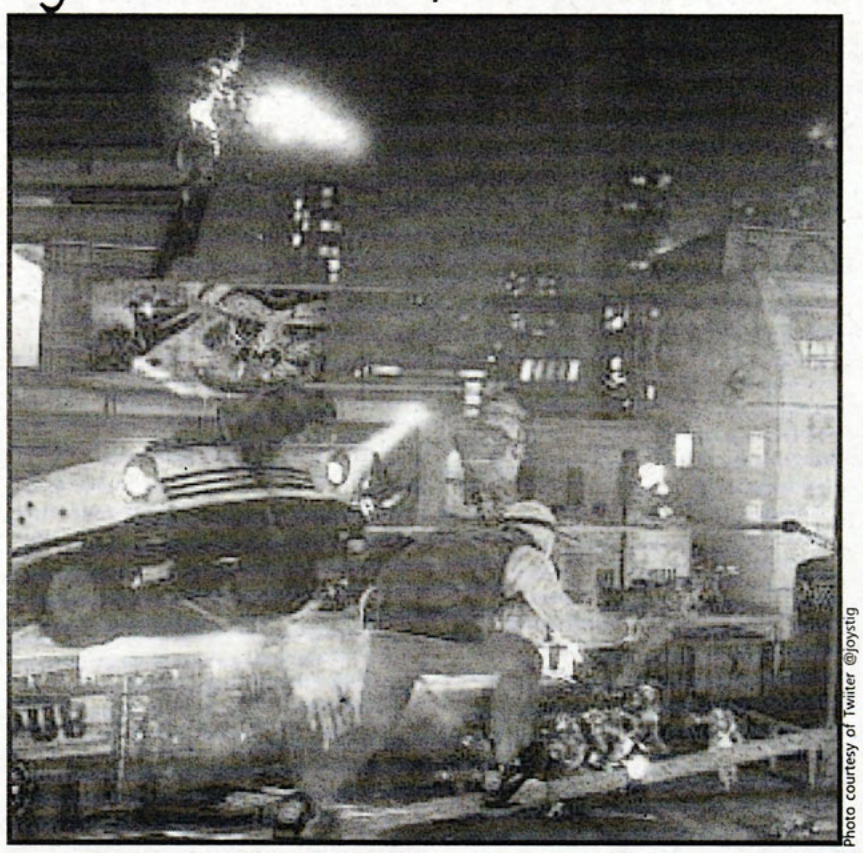


Photo courtesy of Twitter @joystiq

The Oculus Rift is a unique device that can broaden the horizons of virtual reality by providing players with a more realistic first person perspective of many video games.

The best thing about the game is its comedic approach to its apocalyptic world, as the many jokes in the game either break the fourth wall or have clever and sarcastic wit. "Sunset Overdrive's" theme has a punk rock rebellious attitude, which helps the comedic well.

However, if there is one issue with the game, it is that the controls are too complex. However, once the player figures them out the game becomes a breeze to play. "Sunset Overdrive" is a concoction of hours of fun and laughs, giving a brighter outlook to the open world third person shooter genre. With all that into check, this game gets a 4.5/5.

Taken 3: More Explosions and Guns

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

The Taken franchise started off great with their first movie "Taken." Then it began to get silly with the sequel "Taken 2." Now the third installment of the franchise, "Taken 3," directed by Olivier Megaton, has made this series feel old and tired.

The story starts with Brian Mills (Liam Neeson) visiting his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace), who was kidnapped in the first film, and meeting with his ex-wife Lenore (Famke Janssen) who tells him she still has feelings for him and her current marriage is not going too well.

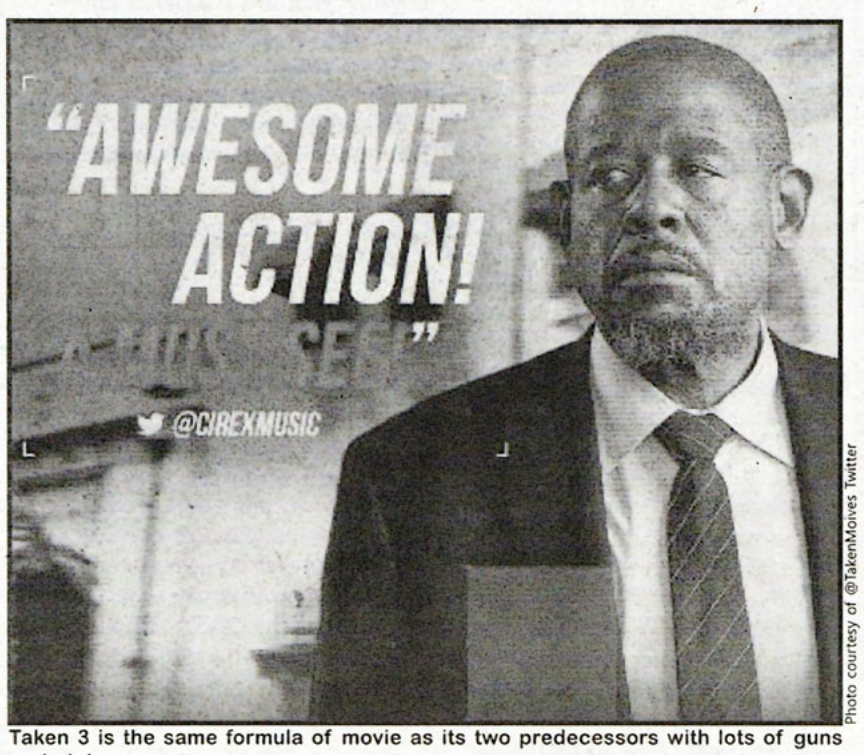


Photo courtesy of @TakenMovies Twitter

Taken 3 is the same formula of movie as its two predecessors with lots of guns and violence.

After being threatened by Lenore's husband, Stuart St. John (Dougray Scott), he goes home only to find Lenore texting to meet him the next day. When he comes back to his apartment the following day he discovers the lifeless body of Lenore, and the LAPD arrives to arrest him for her murder. Escaping from the police, Brian is now on the run and trying to investigate what happened to Lenore. While he is doing this, Inspector Franck Dotzler (Forest Whitaker) is hot on Brian's tail, leading the manhunt to capture him.

The movie itself is nothing new as it follows the same formula as the past two movies. Liam Neeson still does a good job at playing the role of the retired U.S. spy who is very serious and does everything to get answers. However, the other actors are still terrible and bring nothing to this movie but awkward dialogue and hokey acting.

The action sequences in the movie are boring as well, and feel as though they have been done to death, and have been done better in other films. The film has multiple flaws in it. The direction of the writing is horrible as the plot to the film never has a good point. The movie feels as though it was only made to try and squeeze some money from the viewers who want to see explosions and gunfights.

"Taken 3" is anything but a good film. With all of its cliché action sequences and characters, it's no wonder this film has horrendous ratings and negative commentary from critics. Though Liam Neeson is a great actor and plays his part convincingly as he has in the past two Taken films, he alone cannot save this film. This film franchise is just like the "Expendables" franchise and the "Fast and the Furious" franchise, bleeding money out of a small demographic by producing the same story again and again.

This film is only for those who have nothing better to go see or like cliché action movies that don't have original plots. This film gets a rating of 1.5/5.

Arts & Entertainment

Winter Clothes On-The-Go

By Rikki Hussey
Online Designer

Are you excited for your trip to a colder location than Florida, but faced with the dilemma of what to pack? Here are some tips on what type of clothes you need in order to stay warm and toasty while on your trip.

Packing can be a great hassle, but it can be less of a hassle, and even fun, if you know what you need for your trip in advance. Because Florida is known for its warmer climate, even its coldest winter days don't compare to a winter day in other states, especially northern states. So you won't get away with wearing just a light sweater or a blazer; instead you will have to go the extra mile by packing accordingly.

Researching the weather in advance and packing the right clothing will make your trip enjoyable because you will be prepared for the cold temperature. Some items to consider when packing for your trip include: bulky clothes, long sleeve T-shirts, winter boots, gloves, hats, scarves, a turtleneck sweater, and wool tights.

Above: winter boots are perfect to keep your feet warm during the winter.

If you're traveling to colder climates, you will need to pack warm and bulky clothes. Bulky coats and heavy leather jackets are perfect for layering when you're traveling to colder locations. You will also want to pack various colored long sleeve T-shirts to wear as your base layer. Despite the extra space and weight that will be taken up in your suitcase, you're still better off having warm things with you if you're heading into the cold than not having them at all. Burlington Coat Factory is a great store to find the perfect winter coat that is both stylish and comfortable.

Winter boots are harder to pack than sandals and sneakers because they take up quite a bit of space. It may be better to have them on your feet during your flight, rather than in your suitcase. You may want to consider wearing boots that have zippers, because they are easier to remove when you go through security at the airport. If you want to have an extra pair of winter boots on your trip, play around with the space in your suitcase by using the interior pockets to pack some of your smaller clothes, such as your scarves and gloves.

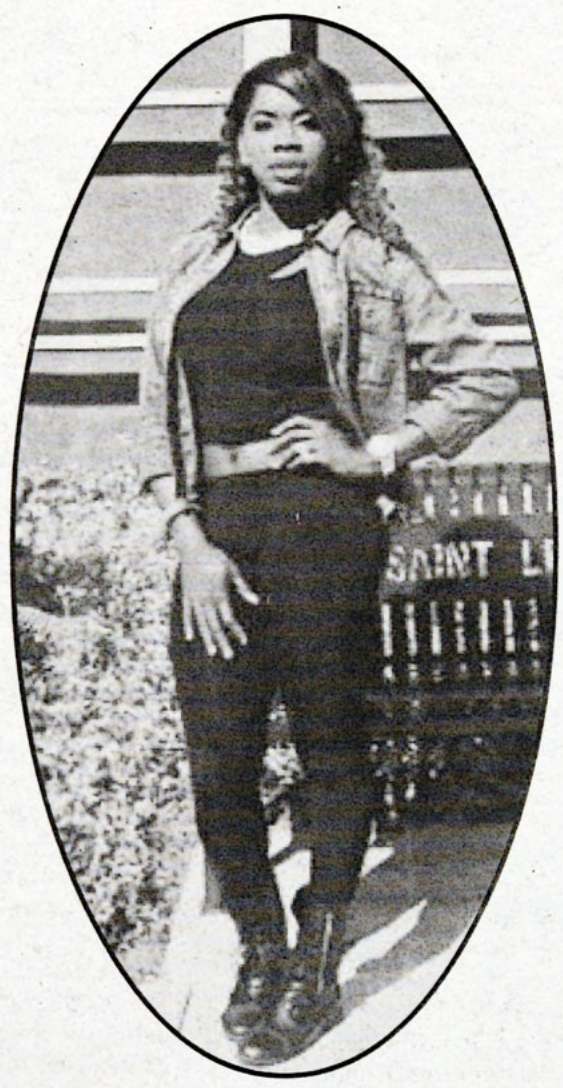
Don't forget to pack accessories on your trip. Packing a pair of gloves goes without saying; not only do they keep your fingers warm but they are stylish. A majority of people lose most of their body heat from their fingers when the weather becomes colder, so don't neglect packing your favorite pair of gloves on your trip.

You will also need winter hats and scarves for your trip. Having these items can turn even the coldest day into a cozy one. When packing your accessories you should take into consideration how much smaller they are from your coats and boots. Therefore, you should designate a specific pocket in your carry-on bag just for your gloves, hats and scarves. Target, Macy's, and Sears are a few of the stores that provide fashionable winter accessories.

A turtleneck sweater is always beneficial in cold climates. Not only does it make for a great undergarment, but it also keeps your neck warm which is very important in the winter. The best materials to go for in the winter are wool or silk, because they add enough warmth for a chilly winter day.

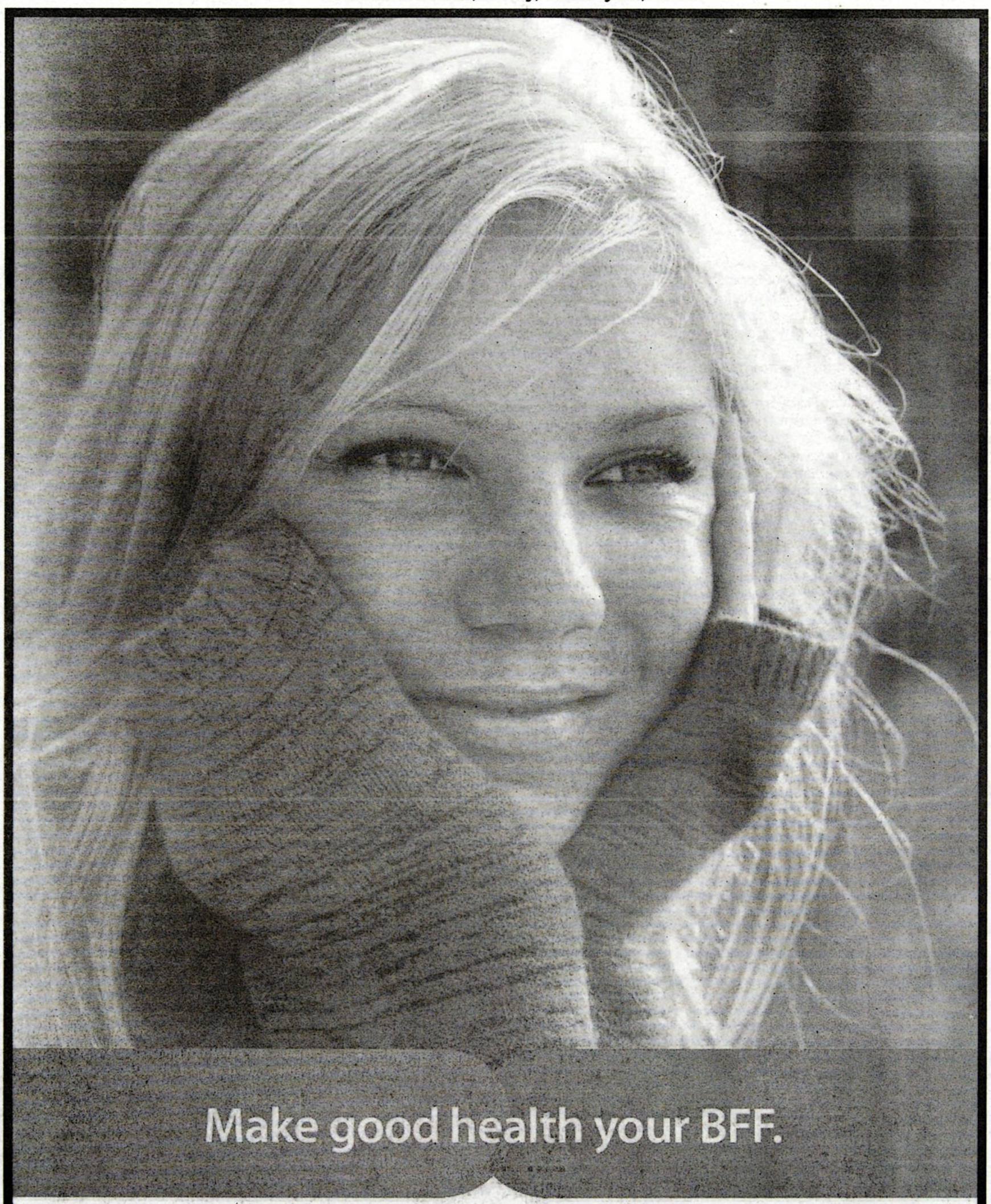
Your winter travel kit will not be complete without wool tights—they are going to be a lifesaver on your trip. They are perfect for layering under skirts and dresses, because they keep your legs nice and toasty in extremely cold temperatures. Wool tights come in many different colors and prints, so you have a lot of options to choose from. On really cold days you will appreciate having your wool tights on.

A useful tip for packing is rolling your clothes instead of just folding them. Rolling your clothes will help you to conserve a lot of space in your suitcase, and it can also help to keep some of your clothes from becoming wrinkled. The key to traveling to cold climates is preparation, because having what you need in advance is an added bonus to an awesome trip.



Above: Layering jackets over your shirt will help to fight the cold. Below: Wearing tights will keep your legs toasty and warm when out and about.

All Photos Courtesy of Rikki Hussy



It's never too early for women to get into the habit of taking care of themselves. Dr. Michael Weiss provides OB/GYN services for women of all ages, including annual exams and tests, weight management, minimally invasive laparoscopic reproductive surgery and more. For an appointment, call **352-567-1411** (Dade City) or **813-788-7669** (Zephyrhills).

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